two years is 1050 and 7350 tonnes respectively. The State Government has also distributed 24066 and 30859 quintals of subsidized green manure seeds during these years.

Training programmes for small and marginal farmers

3. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the training programmes or schemes for small and marginal farmers;

(b) the number of small and marginal farmers imparted with training under the above programmes or schemes in various States during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether there is any plan before Government to upgrade the existing training programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Agriculture marketing, grading and standardisation facilities in A.P.

4. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of adequate post-harvest management and marketing facilities had resulted in a glut in the market leading to distress sales and hardships to farmers;

(b) whether a scheme is being introduced in some districts of Andhra Pradesh for the development and strengthening of agriculture marketing, grading and standardisation facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the NABARD had financed for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the NABARD had drawn up a road map for implementation of the scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector scheme for "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" in Andhra Pradesh with effect from 14.06.2005. The aim of the Scheme is to encourage rapid development of marketing infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors, to cater to the post harvest requirements of production and marketable surplus of various farm products.

Under this Scheme, credit linked back ended subsidy is provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities including for grading, standardization and certification of agricultural produce and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets. The rate of subsidy is 25% of the capital cost of the project. In case of North Eastern States, hilly and tribal areas and to entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, the rate of subsidy is, however, 33.33%. The scheme is reform linked, to be implemented in those States that amend the APMC Act, wherever required, to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of markets in private and cooperative sectors.

(d) and (e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not undertake any direct financing of the projects. Subsidy under the Scheme is released through NABARD for project financed by the Commercial, Cooperative and the Regional Rural Banks, Agricultural Development Financing Companies, scheduled primary cooperative Banks and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation. NABARD also provides refinance to these agencies upto 90 per cent of the amount provide to the project as term loan. Till date no application has been received by NABARD Regional Office, Andhra Pradesh for release of refinance under the scheme.

(f) and (g) NABARD Consultancy Services has been assigned the work relating to generation of awareness, preparation of Detailed Project

Reports (DPRs), techno economic appraisal and preparation of model schemes on consultancy basis for the scheme. NABARD, Andhra Pradesh Regional Office has accordingly conducted two zonal level workshops for senior officers of commercial banks, cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Land Development Banks (LDBs) and state Government officials. Further, NABARD also organized 10 district level workshops for sensitizing branch managers from various banks and prospective entrepreneurs covering all districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Remunerative prices of crops

†5. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not getting prices for their crops as per the cost of production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Generally the prices of major agricultural commodities have been higher than their costs of production during 2004-05. The Government has been pursuing Agricultural Price Policy under which Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for agricultural commodities are announced and purchase operations are organized through Public and Cooperative Agencies with the objective that the market prices do not fall below the MSPs fixed by the Government. It may be mentioned here that the Government fixes the MSPs on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). In addition to cost of production of agricultural commodities, CACP considers several other relevant factors like trends in production and productivity of different crops across States, demand supply situation, price trends both at home and abroad, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agricultural sectors, need for crops diversification, resource use efficiency and food security.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.